United Nations A/53/133

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 June 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Item 117 of the preliminary list*
Programme planning

Proposed revisions to the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation

Report of the Secretary-General

1. This report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 51/219 of 18 December 1996, by which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to propose revisions to the Regulations and Rules of the United Nations Governing Programme Planning, the Programming Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, taking into account the views expressed by Member States thereon.

2. The Regulations of the United Nations Governing Programme Planning, the Programming Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation were adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 37/234 of 21 December 1982. The corresponding Rules were formulated by the Secretary-General. The Regulations were subsequently amended by the Assembly in section I of its resolution 42/215, to reflect the new budget process established in resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986.

3. The revisions proposed to the Regulations relate in the main to those governing the medium-term plan. They derive from the need to adapt the Regulations to reflect the new format of the medium-term plan. The General Assembly in section I of its resolution 47/214 had requested that a prototype of a possible new format for the medium-term plan be drafted. The prototype was submitted by the Secretary-General in document A/49/301 and was reviewed and discussed by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and its thirty-fourth session and by the Assembly at its forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions.

* A/53/50.

98-15179 (E) 040698

4. Revisions are also being proposed to the Regulations to bring them in conformity with General Assembly resolution 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, by which the Office of Internal Oversight Services and current practice were established.

5. Experience gained in the implementation of the Regulations has proven in some cases that the original Regulations did not serve the purpose for which they were designed.

6. The text that follows in the annex indicates each existing regulation, provides comments where relevant and identifies the changes submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration. The Regulations will be renumbered upon approval by the General Assembly.

7. Amendments to the Rules will be promulgated by the Secretary-General following a decision on the Regulations by the General Assembly.

Annex

Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programming Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
Article I. Applicability		
1.1. These Regulations shall govern the planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation of all activities undertaken by the United Nations, irrespective of their source of financing.	None	
Article II. Instruments of integrated management		
2.1. Activities undertaken by the United Nations shall be submitted to an integrated management process reflected in the following instruments: (a) Medium-term plans; (b) Programme budgets; (c) Reports on programme performance; (d) Evaluation reports. Each of these instruments corresponds to one phase in a programme-planning cycle and, consequently, shall serve as a framework for the subsequent phases.	None	
2.2. The planning, programming, budgeting and evaluation cycle shall form an integral part of the general policy-making and management process of the Organization. The instruments referred to in regulation 2.1 above shall be used to ensure that activities are coordinated and that available resources are utilized according to legislative intent and in the most effective and economic manner.	None	
Article III. Planning, programming and budgeting process		
3.1. Planning, programming and budgeting process	None	
1. The planning, programming and budgeting process shall be governed, *inter alia*, by the following principles: (a) Strict adherence to the principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Articles 17 and 18 thereof; (b) Full respect for the prerogatives of the principal organs of the United Nations with respect to the planning, programming and budgeting process; (c) Full respect for the authority and the prerogatives of the Secretary-General as the chief administrative officer of the Organization;		

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
(d) Recognition of the need for Member States to participate in the budgetary preparation from its early stages and throughout the process.		
2. The process for the formulation of the medium-term plan shall include: (a) Full implementation of these regulations, as they pertain to the medium-term plan; (b) Submission of the introduction to the medium-term plan, which constitutes an integral element in the planning process, to Member States for wide consultations; (c) Consultations in a systematic way regarding the major programmes in the plan with sectoral, technical, regional and central bodies in the United Nations; (d) Drawing up by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, of a calendar for such consultations.	The new medium-term plan does not provide for an introduction, but a perspective is provided, as indicated against article 4.7 below. Consequently, article 2 (b) should be deleted. The calendar for consultation on the plan is dependent on the time and frequency of meetings of the sectoral, technical, regional and central bodies as approved in the calendar of conferences of the United Nations. The drawing up of a separate calendar for the preparation of the plan is neither practical nor feasible.	The process for the formulation of the medium-term plan shall include: (a) Full implementation of these Regulations, as they pertain to the medium-term plan; (b) Consultations in a systematic way regarding the major programmes in the plan with sectoral, technical, regional and central bodies of the United Nations.
3.2. Budget process **A. Off-budget years** 1. The Secretary-General shall submit an outline of the programme budget for the following biennium, which shall contain an indication of the following: (a) Preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium; (b) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature; (c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget; (d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources. 2. The Committee for Programme and Coordination, acting as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, shall consider the outline of the programme budget and submit its conclusions and recommendations to the Assembly through its Fifth Committee 3. On the basis of a decision by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General shall prepare his proposed programme budget for the following biennium.	None	

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
4. Throughout this process, the mandate and functions of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions shall be fully respected. The Advisory Committee shall consider the outline of the programme budget in accordance with its terms of reference.		
B. Budget years 5. The Secretary-General shall submit his proposed programme budget to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in accordance with the existing procedures. 6. The Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions shall examine the proposed programme budget in accordance with their respective mandates and shall submit their conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly, through its Fifth Committee, for the final approval of the programme budget. 7. The programme budget shall include expenditures related to political activities of a "perennial" character whose mandates are renewed annually, together with their related conference costs.	None Application of this provision has appeared to be partial.	
Article 4. Medium-term plan 4.1. A medium-term plan shall be proposed by the Secretary-General. 4.2. The medium-term plan shall be a translation of legislative mandates into programmes. Its objectives and strategies shall be derived from the policy orientations and goals set by the intergovernmental organs. It shall reflect Member States' priorities as set out in legislation adopted by functional and regional intergovernmental bodies within their spheres of competence and by the General Assembly, on advice from the Committee for Programme and Coordination. In this context, subsidiary intergovernmental and expert bodies should, accordingly, refrain from making recommendations on the relative priorities of the major programmes as outlined in the medium-term plan, and should instead propose, through the Committee, the relative priorities to be accorded to the various subprogrammes within their respective fields of competence. The medium-term plan shall clearly identify new activities.	None The concept of major programmes is no longer valid under the new medium-term plan format, which consists of programmes, equivalent to a department, office or regional commission, and subprogrammes, which equate with a division or a significant organizational entity within a department, office or regional commission. Consequently, the stipulation that intergovernmental and expert bodies should, accordingly, refrain from making recommendations on the relative priorities of the major programmes as outlined in the medium-term plan, and should instead propose, through the Committee, the relative priorities to be accorded to the various subprogrammes within their respective fields of competence is redundant. The new medium-term plan focuses on objectives and the means to achieve them rather than on detailed descriptions of activities and outputs. Consequently, the plan does not identify activities per se. The word "activities" in the last sentence of the regulation should be replaced with "priority areas".	The medium-term plan shall be a translation of legislative mandates into programmes. Its objectives and strategies shall be derived from the policy orientations and goals set by the intergovernmental organs. It shall reflect Member States' priorities as set out in legislation adopted by functional and regional intergovernmental bodies within their spheres of competence and by the General Assembly, on advice from the Committee for Programme and Coordination. The medium-term plan shall clearly identify new priority areas.

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
4.3. After adoption by the General Assembly, the medium-term plan shall constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations which: (a) States the medium-term objectives to be attained in the plan period; (b) Describes the strategy to be followed to that effect and the means of action to be used; (c) Gives an indicative estimate of the necessary resources.	The inclusion of financial data was envisaged as a means of informing Member States of the probable level of resources during the plan period. The provision of indicative estimates of necessary resources in the context of the medium-term plan has not yielded meaningful results. It is not practical or feasible to derive realistic and accurate estimates of resources so far in advance. Its value was questioned by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The General Assembly has since introduced the outline, which requires the Secretary-General to provide a preliminary estimate of resources in off-budget years (see regulation 3.2). Paragraph (c) of regulation 4.3 should be deleted.	After adoption by the General Assembly, the medium-term plan shall constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations which: (a) States the medium-term objectives to be attained in the plan period; (b) Describes the strategy to be followed to that effect and the means of action to be used.
4.4. The medium-term plan shall serve as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budgets within the period covered by the plan.	None	
4.5. The plan shall cover all activities, substantive and servicing, including those to be financed partially or fully from extrabudgetary resources.	None	
4.6. The plan shall be presented by programme and objective, and not by organizational unit. It shall emphasize the description of objectives and strategies; the presentation and format of the analysis provided therein shall vary according to the type and nature of activities; to this end a distinction shall be made between substantive and servicing activities; objectives shall be time-limited as far as possible, and the plan shall be objective-based in all programmes where that is feasible. The medium-term plan shall identify: (a) Major programmes, consisting of all activities conducted in a sector; (b) Programmes, consisting, within a major programme, of all activities in a sector which are under the responsibility of a distinct organizational unit, normally at the division level; (c) Subprogrammes, consisting, within a programme, of all activities that are directed at the accomplishment of one medium-term objective or several closely related objectives.	The basic feature of the new format of the plan is that there is congruence between the programmes of the plan and the organizational structure of the Secretariat. The concept of a major programme is no longer valid. What was a programme under the regulation is now a subprogramme, and the concept of a subprogramme under the current regulation has been superseded.	The plan shall be presented by programme and subprogramme. There shall be congruence between the programmatic and organizational structure of the Secretariat. Each programme will contain a narrative that will identify the mandates that provide overall direction for the programme. Each subprogramme shall contain a narrative, which should reflect all mandated activities and identify objectives and expected results to be achieved during the plan period.

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
4.7. The plan shall be preceded by an introduction, which will constitute a key integral element in the planning process and shall: (a) Highlight in a coordinated manner the policy orientation of the United Nations system; (b) Indicate the medium-term objectives and strategy and trends deduced from mandates which reflect priorities set by intergovernmental organizations; (c) Contain the Secretary-General's proposals on priorities.	In the new format, the introduction has been replaced by a perspective.	The plan shall be preceded by a perspective, which shall be presented according to the following structure: (a) Persistent problems. These would be derived from an analysis of the long-standing problems that the Organization would continue to address; (b) Emerging trends. These would be derived from an analysis of the current situation; (c) Identification of challenges. This would address the old and new issues faced by the international community, based on the persistent problems and emerging trends; (d) Role of the Organization. This would identify the contributions that the Organization could make in addressing the persistent problems, the emerging trends and the existing, as well as new, challenges; (e) Directions to be pursued. This would outline, in broad terms, the courses of action that would need to be taken and the priority areas to be addressed.
4.8. In order to facilitate the planning process, the Secretary-General shall request the executive heads of the voluntary funds to indicate the likely future volume of extrabudgetary funds, sufficiently in advance for this information to be taken into consideration in the preparation of the medium-term plan.	In light of the observations made with respect to regulation 4.3, this should be deleted.	Delete
4.9. The medium-term plan shall cover a six-year period and be submitted to the General Assembly one year before the submission of the proposed programme budget covering the first biennium of the plan period.	The period of the new plan is 4 years. The text should be amended accordingly.	The medium-term plan shall cover a four-year period and be submitted to the General Assembly one year before the submission of the proposed programme budget covering the first biennium of the plan period.

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
4.10. Sectoral, functional and regional programme-formulating organs shall refrain from undertaking new activities not programmed in the medium-term plan, unless a pressing need of an unforeseeable nature arises, as determined by the General Assembly.	The medium-term plan does not include a list of activities. In addition, the budget process established under resolution 41/213 envisages a contingency fund for accommodating additional mandates (see regulation 3.2 C).	Delete
4.11. The medium-term plan shall be revised as necessary every two years to incorporate required programme changes; revisions to the plan shall be considered by the General Assembly one year before the submission of the proposed programme budget providing for implementation of the changes. The proposed revisions shall be as detailed as required to incorporate the programme implications of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the intergovernmental organs or international conferences since the adoption of the plan.	None	
4.12. The chapters of the proposed medium-term plan shall be reviewed by the relevant sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental bodies, if possible during the regular cycle of their meetings prior to their review by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions shall consider the proposed medium-term plan in accordance with their terms of reference.	The word "chapters" should be replaced with "programmes and subprogrammes".	The programmes and subprogrammes of the proposed medium-term plan shall be reviewed by the relevant sectoral, functional and regional intergovernmental bodies, if possible during the regular cycle of their meetings prior to their review by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. The Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions shall consider the proposed medium-term plan in accordance with their terms of reference.
4.13. The participation of sectoral, functional and regional organs in the formulation of the plan shall be achieved by means of an appropriate preparation period. To that end, the Secretary-General shall provide proposals for the coordination of their calendars of meetings. The activities in the medium-term plan shall be coordinated with those of the concerned specialized agencies through prior consultations.	In light of the comments made under regulation 3.1, this regulation should be amended.	The participation of sectoral, functional and regional organs in the formulation of the plan shall be achieved by means of an appropriate preparation period. The activities in the medium-term plan shall be coordinated with those of the concerned specialized agencies through prior consultations.
4.14. The General Assembly shall consider the proposed medium-term plan in the light of the comments and recommendations of the Economic and Social Council, the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Assembly shall decide to accept, curtail, reformulate or reject each of the subprogrammes proposed in the plan.	None	

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
4.15. The establishment of priorities among both substantive programmes and common services shall form an integral part of the general planning and management process without prejudice to arrangements and procedures now in force or to the specific character of servicing activities. Such priorities shall be based on the importance of the objective to Member States, the Organization's capacity to achieve it and the real effectiveness and usefulness of the results.	None	
4.16. Intergovernmental and expert bodies shall, when reviewing the relevant chapters of the proposed medium-term plan, recommend priorities among subprogrammes in their field of competence. They shall refrain from making recommendations on priority among major programmes. The Committee for Programme and Coordination, when making recommendations, and the Secretary-General, when making proposals on programme priorities, shall take into account the views of the above-mentioned bodies.	Under the previous plan structure, all subprogrammes within a programme were, as a rule, governed by one functional or sectoral body. Within the previous programme for statistics, for instance, priorities were designated for subprogrammes because it was possible to determine which elements at the subprogramme level within the statistics programme could be accorded priority. Under the new plan structure, subprogrammes within a programme relate in many instances to more than one functional or sectoral body. Statistics, for example, now appears as a subprogramme, as does population, each linked to separate functional commissions but falling within a programme. The designation of priority among subprogrammes within a programme could not be achieved in the absence of overall direction from a single functional or sectoral body. In the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, the Secretary-General did not therefore propose, and the General Assembly did not establish, priority among subprogrammes. This regulation should be deleted.	Delete
4.17. On the basis of the Secretary-General's proposals and of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the General Assembly shall designate, among the subprogrammes it accepts, those which are of the highest and lowest priority.	This regulation should be deleted for the same reason as the previous one.	Delete
4.18. Priorities, as determined by the General Assembly, in the medium-term plan shall guide the allocation of budgetary and extrabudgetary resources in the subsequent programme budgets. After the medium-term plan has been adopted by the Assembly, the Secretary-General shall bring the decisions on priorities to the attention of Member States and the governing boards of the voluntary funds.	None	None

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
Article V. Programme aspects of the budget		
5.1. The medium-term plan as approved and revised by the General Assembly shall serve as the framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budget. In order to facilitate this relationship, the programme budget shall have financial information corresponding to at least one of the three programming levels in the medium-term plan.	In view of the congruence between the programmatic and organizational structures of the Organization, the programme budget will contain financial information at both the programme and subprogramme levels.	The medium-term plan as approved and revised by the General Assembly shall serve as the framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budget. In order to facilitate this relationship, the programme budget shall have financial information at the programme and subprogramme levels.
5.2. The programme proposals in the budget shall aim at implementing the strategy in the plan and, therefore, shall be derived from its strategy statements. Programme proposals that are not derived from the plan strategies shall be submitted only as a result of legislation passed subsequent to the adoption of the plan or its last revision.	The new format of the plan focuses on achieving objectives. The text of the regulation should be amended to reflect this.	The programme proposals in the budget shall aim at achieving the objectives established in the plan.
5.3. In the proposed programme budget, requested resources shall be justified in terms of the requirements of output delivery. The highest-priority subprogrammes, as decided by the General Assembly, shall have first claim on resources, if budgetary needs are demonstrated, and, if possible, through redeployment in the event that low-priority activities are curtailed or terminated by intergovernmental decision.	In light of the comments made under regulation 4.16, the second sentence of this regulation should be deleted.	In the proposed programme budget, requested resources shall be justified in terms of the requirements of output delivery.
5.4. The proposed programme budget shall be divided into parts, sections and programmes. Programme narratives shall set out subprogrammes, programme elements, output and users. The proposed programme budget shall be preceded by a statement explaining the main changes made in the content of the programme and the volume of resources allocated to them in relation to the previous biennium and indicating the progress envisaged for all activities with time-limited objectives in implementing the plan. The proposed programme budget shall be accompanied by such information, annexes and explanatory statements as may be requested by or on behalf of the General Assembly and such further annexes or statements as the Secretary-General may deem necessary and useful.	Since the 1992-1993 budget, the presentation of outputs in terms of programme elements has been discontinued. In addition, the plan does not have time-limited objectives. The regulation should be amended accordingly.	The proposed programme budget shall be divided into parts, sections and programmes. Programme narratives shall set out subprogrammes and outputs. The proposed programme budget shall be preceded by a statement explaining the main changes made in the content of the programme and the volume of resources allocated to them in relation to the previous biennium. The proposed programme budget shall be accompanied by such information, annexes and explanatory statements as may be requested by or on behalf of the General Assembly and such further annexes or statements as the Secretary-General may deem necessary and useful.
5.5. All activities for which resources are requested in the proposed programme budget shall be programmed.	None	

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
5.6. Within the proposed programme budget the Secretary-General shall provide the General Assembly with: (a) A list of programme elements and output included in the previous budgetary period which, in his judgement, can be discontinued and, as a consequence, have not been included in the proposed programme budget; (b) An identification within each programme of programme elements of high and low priority, each category representing approximately 10 per cent of the resources requested.	Since the 1992-1993 budget, the presentation of outputs in terms of programme elements has been discontinued. Outputs in a particular period may be of a non-recurrent nature and not meant to be repeated in the next budget period. The provision under 5.6 (a) should be changed from "programme elements and outputs included in the previous budgetary period" to "recurrent outputs". With regard to the identification of 10 per cent high and low priority programme elements, the Committee for Programme and Coordination questioned its usefulness at the level of output or activity in its report on the work of its thirty-fifth session and recommended that this be discontinued. This recommendation was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/228 of 23 December 1993.	Within the proposed programme budget the Secretary-General shall provide the General Assembly with a list of recurrent outputs included in the current programme budget which, in his judgement, can be discontinued and, as a consequence, have not been included in the proposed programme budget.
5.7. The Secretary-General shall provide the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions with advance copies of the proposed programme budget by the end of April of the year preceding the budgetary period.	None	
5.8. The Committee for Programme and Coordination shall prepare a report on the proposed programme budget, containing its programme recommendations and its general assessment of the related resource proposals. It shall receive a statement by the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of its recommendations. The report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination shall be communicated simultaneously to the Economic and Social Council and to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. The Advisory Committee shall receive the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and study the statement by the Secretary-General. The reports of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on each section of the proposed programme budget shall be considered simultaneously by the General Assembly.	None	
5.9. No Council, Commission or other competent body shall take a decision involving either a change in the programme budget approved by the General Assembly or the possible requirement of expenditure unless it has received and taken account or a report from the Secretary-General on the programme budget implications of the proposal.	None	

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
VI. Monitoring of programme performance		
6.1. The Secretary-General shall monitor the delivery of output scheduled in the approved programme budget through a central unit in the Secretariat. After the completion of the biennial budget period, the Secretary-General shall report to the General Assembly, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination, on programme performance during that period.	None	
6.2. An entire subprogramme shall not be reformulated nor a new programme introduced in the programme budget without the prior approval of an intergovernmental body and the General Assembly. The Secretary-General may make such proposals for review by the relevant intergovernmental body if he considers that circumstances so warrant.	None	
6.3. The Secretary-General shall transmit the biennial programme performance report to all Member States by the end of the first quarter following the completion of the biennial budget period.	None	
VII. Evaluation		
7.1. The objective of evaluation is: (a) To determine as systematically and objectively as possible the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and impact of the Organization's activities in relation to their objectives; (b) To enable the Secretariat and Member States to engage in systematic reflections, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the main programmes of the Organization by altering their content and, if necessary, reviewing their objectives.	None	
7.2. All activities programmed shall be evaluated over a fixed time period. An evaluation programme as well as a timetable for intergovernmental review of evaluation studies shall be proposed by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly at the same time as the proposed medium-term plan.	The phrase "by the Secretary-General" should be modified to bring it into conformity with General Assembly resolution 48/218 B, para. 5 (e) (i). In addition, the practice has been for the Committee for Programme and Coordination to consider a new timetable as the need arises.	All activities programmed shall be evaluated over a fixed time period. An evaluation programme as well as a timetable for intergovernmental review of evaluation studies shall be proposed by the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services for transmittal by the Secretary-General and approved by the General Assembly.

Regulation	*Comments*	*Proposed revision*
7.3. Evaluation shall be internal and/or external. The Secretary-General shall develop internal evaluation systems and seek the cooperation of Member States in the evaluation process, as appropriate. Evaluation methods shall be adapted to the nature of the programme being evaluated. The General Assembly shall invite such bodies as it sees fit, including the Joint Inspection Unit, to perform ad hoc external evaluations and to report on them.	None	
7.4. The findings of intergovernmental review of evaluations shall be reflected in subsequent programme design, delivery and policy directives. To this end, a brief report, summarizing the conclusions of the Secretary-General on all evaluation studies conducted in the established evaluation programme shall be submitted to the General Assembly at the same time as the text of the proposed medium-term plan.	The phrase "by the Secretary-General" should be modified to bring it into conformity with General Assembly resolution 48/218 B.	The findings of intergovernmental review of evaluations shall be reflected in subsequent programme design, delivery and policy directives. To this end, a brief report, summarizing the conclusions of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services on all evaluation studies conducted in the established evaluation programme shall be submitted to the General Assembly at the same time as the text of the proposed medium-term plan.